



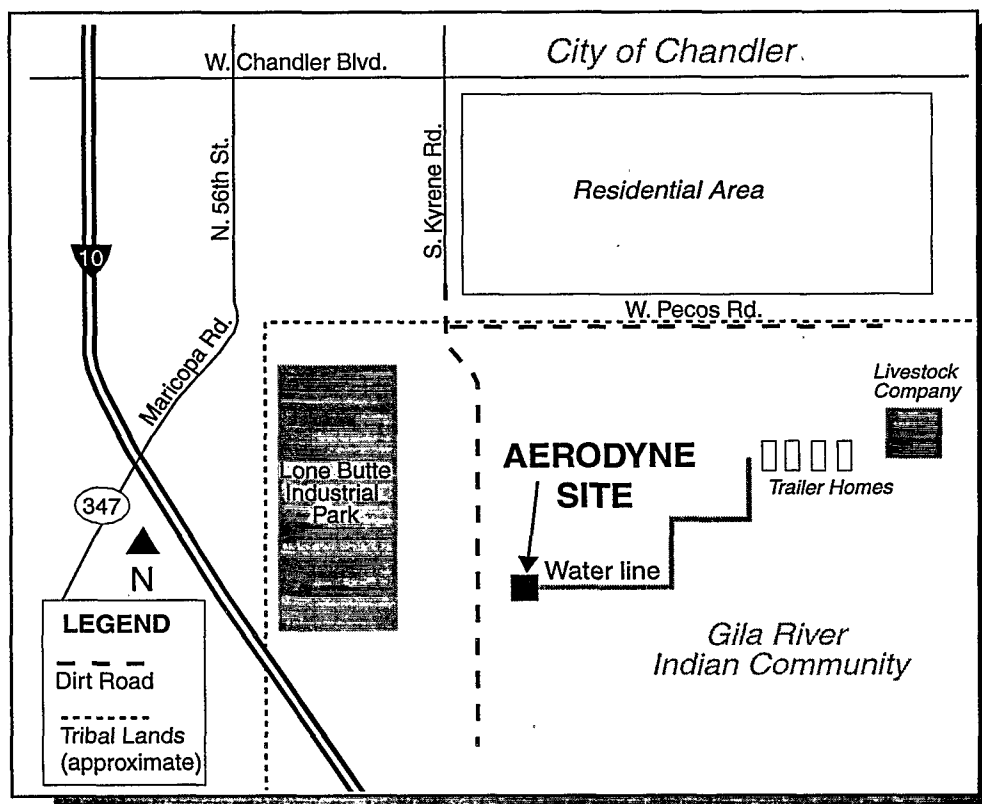
# GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY AERODYNE CORPORATION SITE

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**T**he U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has produced this fact sheet for the Gila River Indian Community and other interested parties to provide information on EPA's assessment activities at the Aerodyne Corporation Site. In 1999, the Gila River Indian Community's Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) asked EPA to conduct a Brownfields site assessment of the former Aerodyne facility. EPA's Brownfields program is designed to help communities redevelop sites for economic reuse. EPA worked closely with the tribe's DEQ to gather background information and develop a good site history. Only recently did the Bureau of Indian Affairs locate old lease information which indicated that rocket fuels were manufactured and tested at this location.

## Site Background

The Aerodyne Corporation occupied a 30-acre parcel southeast of the Lone Butte Industrial Park within the Gila River Indian Community. The Aerodyne facility manufactured rocket fuel and tested rocket motors at this location from 1964 to 1989. EPA has tested similar locations throughout the United States and is concerned about potential contamination with ammonium perchlorate, a common component of solid rocket fuel. Over the next few months EPA will be testing soil and groundwater to determine if perchlorate at the facility presents any threats to public health and the environment.



Site Location Map

## What is Perchlorate?

Perchlorate is a man-made inorganic salt used in solid rocket fuel, in munitions and in the pyrotechnics industry. Perchlorate is as soluble as table salt, can persist for a long time in the environment, and easily dissolves and moves through both groundwater and surface water. Perchlorate has been detected in more than 100 public water supply wells in California, as well as the Colorado River from sources in Nevada. Most sites where perchlorate has been found are related to solid rocket fuel manufacturing and testing.

There is some uncertainty regarding the toxicity and environmental effects of perchlorate. In high dosages, perchlorate interferes with thyroid activity and may have other health effects, particularly on children and sensitive populations.

## What testing is planned?

Beginning December 15, 1999, EPA will be testing the drinking water supply of the residences located within a mile of the Aerodyne facility. The purpose of this testing is to ensure that the drinking water is safe. You will be notified of the results of this testing when the laboratory results become available.

Over the next several months, EPA will also be testing the soil at the Aerodyne facility for perchlorate and other potential contaminants. You may notice workers and other personnel working at this location. In addition, a drill rig may be on the site to obtain deeper samples. Depending upon the results of the water analysis, additional groundwater monitoring may be necessary. We will keep you posted regarding future site activities.

## For more information, please contact:

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